

herein. No reimbursement, however, shall be made under this section for any expenses incurred prior to the date of the enactment of this Act which would not have been a proper charge against the Government at the time of the incurring of such expenses. The reimbursements authorized herein shall be in lieu of but not in addition to reimbursements for like purposes which may be otherwise authorized by Federal law or regulation, but a person entitled to any reimbursement under this section may elect under which provision of Federal law or regulation to claim such reimbursement.

SEC. 12. The Secretary may issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. The person recognized under such regulations as the person to direct the disposition of the remains of a deceased person shall be either a surviving spouse, a blood relative, or an adoptive relative of the deceased person, or, if none of such persons can be ascertained and located, a person standing in loco parentis to the deceased person.

SEC. 13. There are authorized to be appropriated from time to time such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 14. (a) Section 212 (a) (1) of the Public Health Service Act, approved July 1, 1944 (58 Stat. 682), is amended by deleting therefrom the phrase "burial payments in the event of death,".

(b) Section 506 of the Public Health Service Act, approved July 1, 1944 (58 Stat. 682), is amended by adding at the end thereof a new sentence reading as follows: "Appropriations available for carrying out the provisions of this Act shall also be available for the payment of such expenses relating to the recovery, care, and disposition of the remains of personnel or their dependents as may be authorized under other provisions of law."

(c) The following laws or parts of laws are hereby repealed:

(1) The Act of March 9, 1928 (45 Stat. 251, ch. 162), as amended by the Act of May 17, 1938 (52 Stat. 398);

(2) The Act of May 26, 1928 (45 Stat. 767, ch. 779);

(3) The fourth sentence and the first proviso of the Act of June 15, 1936 (49 Stat. 1507);

(4) The Act of April 20, 1940 (54 Stat. 144); and

(5) Title 14, United States Code, sections 504, 505, and 506.

SEC. 15. Section 9 of the Act of January 19, 1942 (56 Stat. 6), as amended by section 4 of the Act of March 29, 1944 (58 Stat. 129), is further amended by deleting the words "provisions of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of the Act of April 20, 1940 (54 Stat. 144), relating to the burial expenses of Navy personnel, and the".

Approved July 15, 1954.

Regulations.

Appropriations.

Military benefits.
42 USC 213.

Transportation of remains.
42 USC 224.

Repeals.

10 USC 916-916d.
34 USC 923.

10 USC 455a,
455d.
34 USC 924-929.
63 Stat. 537.

33 USC 870.

34 USC 924-928.

Public Law 496

CHAPTER 508

AN ACT

To authorize the sale of certain vessels to Brazil for use in the coastwise trade of Brazil.

July 15, 1954
[S. 2370]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized, at any time prior to twenty-four months from the date of enactment of this Act, to transfer to the Government of Brazil or to citizens of Brazil title to not more than twelve C1-MAV-1 type merchant vessels under the following conditions:

(a) After consultation with the Secretary of State it is determined that the sale of such ships to Brazil will contribute to the economic development of Brazil, and such sales would serve the interest of the foreign policy of the United States;

Brazil.
Sale of vessels.

Conditions.

(b) After consultation with the Secretary of Defense it is determined that the sale of such vessels would not adversely affect the defense of the United States;

(c) After investigation it is determined that there are no privately owned C1-MAV-1 type vessels offered and available for sale by American citizens as defined in section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916, as amended, at prices equal to or less than, and upon credit terms similar to, those provided for below;

(d) The sale of such vessels shall be at prices determined under section 3 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act, 1946, as amended, as-is, where-is;

(e) At the time of sale the purchasers shall pay at least 25 per centum of the price determined under subsection (d). The Secretary of Commerce, after consultation with the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Problems, shall fix the terms of payment on unpaid balances, which terms shall in no event be more favorable than the terms applicable in the case of sales to citizens of the United States;

(f) The obligation of the purchasers with respect to the payment of such unpaid balance of the purchase price and interest thereon shall be secured by a mortgage which shall contain, among others, provisions according to such mortgage, the priorities over other liens and encumbrances accorded such mortgages on merchant vessels under the laws of the country to which the registry of the vessels is transferred; and

(g) Every transfer under the authority of this Act, including transfers under the authority of section 9, or section 37, of the Shipping Act, 1916, within the intent of subsection (c) hereof, shall be subject to an agreement by the Government of Brazil that the vessels whether under mortgage to the United States or not shall not engage in international trade or in other than the coastwise trade of Brazil.

Approved July 15, 1954.

60 Stat. 41.
50 USC app.
1736.

39 Stat. 730; 40
Stat. 901.
46 USC 808, 835.

Public Law 497

CHAPTER 509

AN ACT

July 15, 1954
[S. 2728]

To authorize the collection of indebtedness of military and civilian personnel resulting from erroneous payments, and for other purposes.

U. S. and Armed
Forces employees.
Salary deduction
for erroneous pay-
ment.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, when it is determined by the Secretary of the department concerned or the head of the agency or independent establishment concerned, or one of their designees, that an employee of the United States or any member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or a reserve component thereof, is indebted to the United States as the result of any erroneous payment made by the department, agency, or independent establishment concerned to or on behalf of any such person, the amount of the indebtedness may be collected in monthly installments, or at officially established regular pay period intervals, by deduction in reasonable amounts from the current pay account of such person. The deductions may be made only from basic compensation, basic pay, special pay, and incentive pay, retired pay, retainer pay, or in the case of persons not entitled to basic pay, other authorized pay. Collection shall be effected over a period not greater than the anticipated period of active duty or period of employment, as the case may be. The amount deducted for any period shall not exceed an amount equal to two-thirds of the pay from which the deduction is made, unless the